

IN THE MATTER OF THE ILL-TREATMENT OF
PRISONERS OF WAR AND ATROCITIES COMMITTED
AT SHAMSHUIPO CAMP, HONGKONG, FROM
30 DECEMBER 1941 UNTIL AUGUST 1945.

A F F I D A V I T

I, Major ROBERT DISBY BUCK, Royal Army Pay Corps,
an officer of the Regular Army, with permanent home
address at 111, ONSLOW GARDENS, WALLINGTON, SURREY,
MAKE OATH and say as follows :-

1. I was captured at HONGKONG by the Japanese on 25
December 1941 and was taken from the Island to a camp
on the west side of the penninsular opposite HONGKONG,
known as SHAMSHUIPO. I remained at SHAMSHUIPO from 30
December 1941 until August 1945.

2. On 18 April 1942 about three hundred officers were
removed from SHAMSHUIPO Camp to a camp on the other side
of the penninsular known as ARGYLL STREET CAMP. Some
forty officers were left at SHAMSHUIPO Camp. ARGYLL
STREET was known as Camp 'N' and was for officers. Camp
SHAMSHUIPO was, except for the forty officers remaining,
the Camp for Other Ranks.

On 1 May 1944 ARGYLL STREET CAMP was evacuated and
the officers there were brought back to SHAMSHUIPO.
There, the officers were kept separate from the other
ranks but, while at SHAMSHUIPO, they retained their
identity and camp name - namely Camp 'N' so that
Camp 'S' (Other Ranks) and Camp 'N' (Officers) were
located at SHAMSHUIPO but kept separate and distinct.

3. The Camp Commandant of Camp 'S' from February 1942
until early 1943 was Lieutenant SAKAINO. He was succeeded
by Lieutenant WADA who remained Commandant until the end
of 1943. WADA then became sick and the Commandant from
the end of 1943 until the end of 1944 was Lieutenant
TANAKA. Lieutenant TANAKA was in charge but the camp
in fact was run by a Japanese Warrant Officer named
HONDA. Early in 1945 Lieutenant WADA returned and was
Commandant until August 1945.

WADA and HONDA were quite good, particularly HONDA:
I have nothing against them nor against Lieutenant TANAKA
but Lieutenant SAKAINO was an indifferent Commandant.

4. I have read the affidavit made on 23 November 1945 by Lieutenant-colonel F.D. FIELD. I confirm the matters spoken to in his affidavit so far as they relate to what occurred in Camp 'S'.

I have the following further observations to make:

- (a) The 'Lieutenant' LLOYD referred to in paragraph 3 of Lieutenant-colonel FIELD's affidavit was a Serjeant;
- (b) The Captain BROWN referred to in paragraph 4 of the said affidavit is Major PETER K. BROWN;
- (c) The Flying-Officer GREY referred to in paragraph 6 of the said affidavit is Flight-Lieutenant HECTOR BERTRAM GRAY;
- (d) Two other ranks were involved with Captain FORD and Flight-Lieutenant GRAY and were also tortured; they are Serjeant HARDY, Royal Air Force and a Serjeant ROUTLEDGE;
- (e) I was informed by several fellow prisoners, who had seen Lieutenant BARNETT's condition, that he had been beaten up by the Japanese Camp Serjeant HARATA, as mentioned in paragraph 11 of Lieutenant-colonel FIELD's affidavit.

5. In July 1942 at SHAMSHUIPO an attempt at a tunnel was discovered by the Japanese. About eight British other ranks were removed by the Japanese some time later. All except four of those taken away returned. I was told that all of those taken away had been interrogated and general ill-treated by the KEMPETAI. I heard nothing more about the four who did not return until, in August 1945, I saw a list prepared by the Japanese in which these four were named as having been killed by shooting. The four other ranks in question were:

No. 6202127 - Lance-corporal BYRNE
Middlesex Regiment
6202767 - Private BRANSON
Middlesex Regiment
6200791 - Private DUNNE
Royal Army Ordnance Corps
7608321 - Private STOPFORTH
Royal Army Ordnance Corps

The officer in charge of the KEMPETAI at this time was a Colonel NOMA: I believe that he left for Japan early in 1945.

6. In October 1942 I was informed by the Japanese that a sum of money had been made available by the Vatican for the benefit of prisoners. I was requested to prepare a list of articles upon which this money should be expended. I made a list which included drugs, and food for invalids. About a month later the Roman Catholic Padre of the camp, the Reverend E.J. GREEN who, I believe, could be found at "CRANFORD", 36 MARCHMONT ROAD, WALLINGTON, SURREY, wrote to the Commandant, Lieutenant SAKAINO asking that the supply of goods requested should be expedited. He was taken before the Commandant and he explained the purport of his letter and was dismissed. About ten minutes later the Reverend GREEN was ordered to the Commandant's office; there he received a very severe beating up at the hands of Serjeant KURASAKI and the Interpreter INOUE. Lieutenant SAKAINO was not present. I saw the Reverend GREEN immediately after the beating up and he had been very severely knocked about. He was taken to hospital shortly afterwards and I consider, in company with many others, that this ill-treatment adversely affected his health for the whole period of his captivity.

7. In regard to the escape which was effected in April 1942 from Camp 'S', a Serjeant BEARD - a branch manager of a canteen who had donned khaki and was given the local rank of serjeant -, and a Lieutenant T.A. PEARCE, Royal Artillery were removed, interrogated and ill-treated. It was alleged that they had some knowledge of the escape but, in BEARD's case, he had no knowledge and was apparently mistaken by the Japanese for Lieutenant BARD.

8. Soon after the departure of the officers to ARGYLL STREET certain Royal Army Ordnance Corps and other technical personnel among the prisoners were employed by the Japanese on repairing guns at STANLEY. I took it upon myself to protest to the Interpreter TSUTADA but could get no satisfaction. Towards the end of 1942 working parties of prisoners from SHAMSHUIPO were employed on the enlargement of KAI TAK Aerodrome. A Lieutenant E.H. FIELD, Royal Artillery, protested. He was taken before the adjutant of Colonel TOKUNAGA at whose hands he suffered a severe beating.

9. (a) With regard to the Japanese named in paragraph 16(a) of the said affidavit of Lieutenant-colonel FIELD I am in agreement with such paragraph except with respect to the Japanese KOCHI and FUJIHARA therein mentioned whom I have never seen.

(b) Of the other Japanese whom I have named:

- (i) NOMA (Colonel) was in charge of the KEMPETAI in HONGKONG from, I believe, late 1941 until his departure to Japan which, I think, occurred at the end of 1944 or beginning of 1945. He was well-known in HONGKONG.
- (ii) TSUTADA, was Interpreter at SHAMSHUIPO from about February 1942 until early 1944 after which I never saw him again. He was then aged twenty-two to twenty-five years; height 5 feet 7 inches; dark hair; his facial appearance favoured that of a European rather than that of a Japanese; he wore glasses and was clean-shaven; he was of slight but wiry build; spoke English fluently and was a man of considerable administrative ability. I believe he was educated in Singapore where his father was a Japanese dentist.
- (iii) KURASAKI (Serjeant) was aged about thirty; height five feet; clean-shaven; wore spectacles; stocky in build and of considerable strength. I believe that at the end of 1943 or early in 1944, his time period of service in the Japanese Army having expired, he took a civilian post in HONGKONG and may well be in British custody.
- (iv) INOUE was aged about twenty-five; height about 5 feet 8 inches; hair dark; clean-shaven; was solid and well-built. He had spent his boyhood in CANADA at a place called CAMLOOPS. About the end of 1943 he left SHAMSHUIPO and, although I did not see him again, I believe that he went to the southern regions, returned to HONGKONG and was in British custody.

(v) The Japanese NIMOURI mentioned by Lieutenant-colonel FIELD, I heard, had studied law in America.

10. In my capacity as Acting Command Paymaster I prepared a statement of casualties happened to prisoners who had been captured. The Japanese produced a statement which purported to show also what had happened to all prisoners of war captured in HONGKONG. This statement showed prisoners who had been according to the Japanese executed or killed; this statement I brought home and I understand is now in the possession of "Casualties P.W.", the War Office.

SWORN by the aforesaid ROBERT)
DIGBY BUCK at 6 Spring Gardens)
in the City of WESTMINSTER this) (SIGNED) R.D. BUCK.
THIRD day of DECEMBER 1945,)

BEFORE ME,

(SIGNED) RATHCREEDAN,
Captain Legal Staff.

OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original affidavit.

/s/ R.G. deC. WONNELL, Major

Office of the Judge Advocate
General.